



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD APPROVES RIDLEY-THOMAS MOTION FOR \$25,000 REWARD TO SOLVE “HALLOWEEN” MURDER OF 5 YEAR OLD

LA County and City Rewards Total \$100,000

LOS ANGELES — On Sunday, October 31, 2010 at approximately 2:00 p.m., five-year-old Aaron Shannon Jr., was fatally shot in the back of his head in the backyard of his grandfather's residence on East 84th Street in the City of Los Angeles by two or more assailants. Aaron was taken to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, where he succumbed to his injury around 10:00 p.m. on Monday evening.

“There is no explanation, reason or justification for anyone to commit a crime of this nature,” said Ridley-Thomas. “I hope that the \$25,000 reward that was unanimously approved today by the Board of Supervisors, combined with the \$75,000 reward that has been committed by the City of Los Angeles, will encourage those who can identify the persons responsible for ending the life of this precious child to come forward and ensure that these criminals are taken off the streets. While the horror of this event will be experienced not only by Aaron's family but by the entire community for a very long time, the pain we all feel now will be eased somewhat when we know that these criminals are behind bars. There is simply no way to explain or even understand crimes of this nature.”

Aaron was preparing for a Halloween party in Inglewood, and was dressed in a Spiderman costume. He went into his grandfather's backyard to show off his costume to

his uncle, grandfather and cousin, when two men armed with handguns fired from the alley behind the home. At least one of the rounds struck Aaron in the back of his head; his uncle was hit in the leg, and grandfather on the wrist.

The \$100,000 combined reward which is being offered to the public for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for one of the worst crimes on record in the Second District reflects the rage and frustration that residents feel about this crime. The suspects are two African American males in their 20's who were seen walking in the alleyway behind the residence. Los Angeles Police Department investigators believe there are witnesses who may have seen the suspects leaving the victim's home, and they urge anyone with information to contact the Los Angeles Police Department Criminal Gang Homicide Unit to provide information which may assist the investigators in identifying the suspects.

"There are no words to express my sorrow at this unthinkable tragedy, and I am grateful that all members of the Board have joined me in offering a substantial reward in hope that it will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the hoodlums who shot young Aaron to death and wounded two family members for no reason," added Ridley-Thomas.

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